



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

2 NAVY ANNEX

WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

CRS

Docket No: 659-00

20 April 2000

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 19 April 2000. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found that you enlisted in the Marine Corps on 14 March 1972 at age 19. Prior to the offense for which you received the punitive discharge, you received six nonjudicial punishments. The offenses included unauthorized absences totalling 17 days, drinking in the barracks, stealing rations, and absence from your appointed place of duty.

A special court-martial convened on 12 September 1974 and found you guilty of an unauthorized absence of 46 days. The court sentenced you to confinement at hard labor for a month, forfeiture of \$217, reduction in rate to E-1, and a bad conduct discharge.

On 5 November 1974 you received a seventh nonjudicial punishment for an unauthorized absence of 12 days. Subsequently, the bad conduct discharge was ordered executed. You were discharged on 25 August 1975.

In its review of your application the Board carefully weighed all

potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and immaturity and the contention that alcohol abuse caused your misconduct. However, the Board concluded that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge due to the frequency of the offenses, and the fact that your total period of unauthorized absence was more than two months. Further, alcohol abuse does not excuse misconduct. Based on the foregoing, the Board concluded that no change to the discharge is warranted. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director